

stand in the way of faster economic growth. Besides the significant changes outlined in the plan, let me take this opportunity to mention a couple of other items the President talks about in his agenda for small business—streamlining small business regulations and the need for tort reform to curtail frivolous lawsuits.

We know that small businesses are hardest hit by regulations. Firms employing fewer than 20 employees face an annual regulatory burden of \$6,975 per worker—60 percent more than a firm employing 500 or more people. And tax compliance costs are twice as burdensome on small businesses compared with their larger counterparts. The Federal government has a new web site—[www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) that makes it easier to participate in Federal rulemaking. Small businesses can review and submit comments on proposed regulations that are published in the Federal Register. Americans spend nearly a trillion dollars a year complying with state and federal regulations, so having this website provides an opportunity to hear from those unfairly burdened.

Tomorrow, I will be testifying before the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on another Administration priority—the need for Congress to pass Association Health Plan (AHP) legislation to help small business have access to affordable health care for their employees. Another issue that the community has been very proactive in pursuing.

Taken together, these changes send a strong signal that this Administration understands that our economy can thrive only if our small businesses thrive. As the economy continues to trend upward, America's small businesses can be counted on to continue to provide strength, resilience and optimism. Thanks to the President's aggressive agenda, small business owners can count on an environment in which their efforts will be encouraged and their success will be sustained.

Thank you again for including me in today's discussion, and I look forward to working with you in the months ahead to achieve passage of the President's economic growth plan.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2003*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit for the RECORD how I would have voted on those measures from the week of January 27, 2003. I was in Albuquerque, NM, last week as a family member underwent surgery and unable to make it to Washington, DC.

On rollcall 13, with regard to H.J. Res. 26, Honoring the contributions of Catholic schools, offered on January 27, 2002, had I been present I would have voted in favor of the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

On rollcall 14, with regard to H.J. Res. 25, Supporting efforts to promote greater awareness of the need for youth mentors and increased involvement with youth through mentoring, offered on January 27, 2002, had I been present I would have voted in favor of the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

On rollcall 15, with regard to H.J. Res. 13, Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes,

offered on January 28, 2002, had I been present I would have voted in favor of the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair.

On rollcall 16, with regard to H.J. Res. 13, Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes, offered on January 28, 2002, had I been present I would have voted for the motion to recommit with instructions.

On rollcall 17, with regard to H.J. Res. 2, Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes, offered on January 29, 2002, had I been present I would have voted for the motion to instruct conferees.

#### IN HONOR OF THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit, as they celebrate their 70th anniversary in holy ministry and service to others.

Founded in 1932 by Mother Josephine Finatowicz, the Sisters of the Holy Spirit began their legacy of caring for our most vulnerable citizens in two humble homes. Within those walls, the Sisters lovingly cared for the parentless children of our community. Later, the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland approached the Sisters with a request to provide a home for older adults who could not afford adequate housing.

This vision was the dream of Monsignor Gilbert Jennings, who left his specific request on the pages of his last will and testament. After his death, the Sisters agreed to fulfill his vision of the creation of a caring home for seniors. The 13 dedicated women of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit moved from their Cleveland neighborhood to their new convent built on the rolling farmland of Granger Road in Garfield Heights.

The Jennings Center for Older adults has evolved from a single story wood frame building to an extensive senior housing campus. From the beginning, the Sisters ran everything from the cooking to the nursing, to the administrative work. As in years past, the Sisters of the Holy Spirit continue to heal the hearts and souls of the residents of the Jennings Center.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit. Their commitment, kindness and caring for our children and our elderly have served to lift the spirits of countless individuals, families, and our entire community. We are blessed to have these angels—the Sisters of the Holy Spirit, bringing us light and hope, and asking nothing in return.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF JULIAN FRANCIS DEPREE, JR.

### HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2003*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to say a few words

about the life of Julian Francis DePree, Jr. (Jeff) who died suddenly over the weekend from natural causes. He proudly served his country, was a successful and ethical businessman, a loyal husband, and a devoted father.

Jeff DePree, in the eyes of his family and friends, had a "larger than life" personality, but, first and foremost, he was a caring father to his four children and a devoted husband to his wife Joan. Jeff was born on March 9, 1944, in Mt. Kisco, New York. He later graduated from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, and received his Masters degree from Columbia University in New York City.

Jeff served his country in Vietnam as an Intelligence Officer in the 199th Infantry Brigade. He survived two tours of duty and was awarded two Bronze Stars for his service as well as an Air Medal. Jeff was also an avid sportsman and conservationist enjoying golf, boating, fishing, and racquet sports, a love for which he passed onto his children.

Jeff was also a keen businessman. He was co-founder of a financial services company that specialized in leasing and equity financing for major industrial projects. He became an industry leader among structured finance specialists and advised many of the nations largest finance companies on their investments. Jeff was very active in local community affairs, having served on the Lake Forest Hospital Board, as well as the City's Cemetery Commission.

Most of all, Jeff brought great fun to everyone. He was an excellent storyteller, singer, guitar player and dancer. When in the company of Jeff, his engaging and entertaining personality was infectious. Jeff was indicative of thousands of Americans who quietly go about their daily lives contributing to the greatness of our nation through their personal character and conduct.

Jeff's passing is an immense loss to his family and his community. His life was cut short, but I am certain his children will carry on his legacy in a way that would make their father very proud. I offer my condolences to his wife Joan, and his children Katie (Jess), Austin, Randy, Spencer and his grandson, William. May they take comfort in knowing they have been blessed to have had such a wonderful person in their lives. He will be greatly missed.

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM L. "BILL" O'DANIEL

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2003*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William L. "Bill" O'Daniel of Mt. Vernon was appointed to the Illinois Senate in 1985 and was elected by an overwhelming margin in 1986 and has served this body with distinction throughout his eighteen years as a member.

During his five terms in the Senate, Senator O'Daniel, served as chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Conservation Committee, as Democratic Caucus Chair, and most recently as Democratic spokesperson of the Senate Agriculture and Conservation Committee.

Senator O'Daniel has also served on the Committees on Appropriations I, Elections and